

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 6-19 as follows:

6. Method, comprising the steps of:
providing one or more video signals from one or more corresponding reality engines in response to one or more corresponding user control signals for controlling information contained in said one or more video signals; and
providing said video signals to a plurality of users via a telecommunications network according to selection signals received over said network from said plurality of users wherein each selection signal is indicative of a reality engine selected by a particular user and wherein said one or more reality engines are each selectable by multiple users but only controllable by one user control signal at a time.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein at least one of said plurality of users is able to use said at least one reality engine as an active user, that is, by providing a user control signal for controlling said at least one reality engine and, alternatively, to use said at least one reality engine as a passive user, that is, without providing any user control signal for controlling said at least one reality engine.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein at least one of said one or more user control signals is provided over said network by an active user for actively controlling a corresponding reality engine.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said active user is also able to use said reality engine as a passive user, that is, without providing any user control signal for controlling said reality engine.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein multiple users selecting said reality engine actively controlled by said active user only provide selection signals and are not providing any control signals and are therefore passive users of said reality engine.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein at least one of said one or more control signals is provided over said network by a remote director user for remotely controlling one or more corresponding reality engines.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein multiple users selecting a remotely controlled one of said reality engines actively controlled by said remote director user only provide selection signals and are not providing any control signals and are therefore only passive users of said remotely controlled reality engine.

13. The method of claim 6, wherein at least one of said one or more control signals is provided by a local director user for locally controlling one or more corresponding reality engines.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein multiple users selecting a locally controlled one of said reality engines actively controlled by said local director user only provide selection signals and are not providing any control signals and are therefore only passive users of said locally controlled reality engine.

15. Apparatus, comprising:
at least one reality engine for providing at least one corresponding video signal in response to an active user control signal; and
a telepresence server, responsive to said at least one corresponding video signal and to selection signals from a plurality of users via a telecommunications

network, for providing said one or more video signals to said plurality of users via said telecommunications network according to said selection signals wherein said active user control signal is from one of said plurality of users controlling said reality engine actively while others of said plurality of users are without active control of said reality engine but rather use the reality engine passively, according to the control of said one user.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said one user is also able to use said reality engine as a passive user, that is, without providing said active user control signal while another user of said plurality of users provides said active user control signal.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein at least one of said one or more control signals is provided over said network by a remote director user for remotely controlling one or more corresponding reality engines.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of said one or more control signals is provided by a local director user for locally controlling one or more corresponding reality engines.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said active user control signal can come from any one of said plurality of users any one of which is also able to use said reality engine as a passive user, that is, without providing any user control signal for controlling said reality engine while another user of said plurality of users provides said active user control signal.